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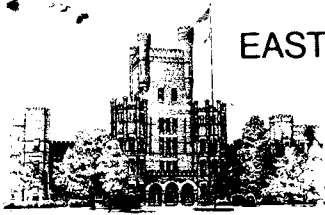
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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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89-722

November 28, 1989

FILE COPY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU TO RING IN HOLIDAY SEASON

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University President and Mrs. Stan Rives will open the University's holiday season with their fourth annual Community Holiday Party December 8 at Booth Library.

The party, which includes festive appetizers, is free and open to the public. "We want to share with the many friends of Eastern this festive time," said the Rives.

It will feature performances by the Eastern Illinois University/Community Orchestra, directed by Don Tracy, and world-renowned concert pianist Ruth Slenczynska from 7:40 to 8:30 p.m. in the Dvorak Concert Hall. The orchestra will perform an overture by Tchaikovsky. Miss Slenczynska will perform a piece by Chopin and then will join the orchestra in the performance of a piano concerto by Saint-Saens.

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HOLIDAY PARTY

Other events in the public program, beginning in the cathedral-like north foyer of the library, will include caroling by the Charleston High School Variations Show Choir, directed by Alice Jayne Swickard, at 6 p.m. and the lighting of the EIU tree by President Rives and presentation of the President Doudna Memorial Scholarship by Mrs. Winifred Doudna at 6:20 p.m.

At 6:35 p.m., Stan McMorris and Eastern professor Tom Woodall will direct the Coles County Barbershoppers Chorus. They will be followed at 6:55 p.m. by the Eastern Illinois University Chamber Singers, directed by Robert Snyder.

Events at the library will conclude when the Charleston Sacred Harp Singers directed by Donald Bardsley perform from 7:15 to 7:30. The program will then shift to the Dvorak Concert Hall.

Slenczynska's career, which has spanned over 50 years, has included more than 3000 recitals all over the world. She has released 15 records and has written two books. Her life has been the subject of several television programs and magazine features and her articles regularly appear in professional music publications.

Seating in the concert hall is complimentary and limited.